UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency Washington, DC 20250 **Notice PM-2326**

For: FSA National Office and RMA Employees (Except Kansas City)

FY 2002 Annual Performance Appraisals for FSA National Office and RMA Employees Under Pass/Fail Rating System

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Management

Dennis J. Partano

1 Annual Performance Appraisals

A

Purpose

This notice:

- provides employees and supervisors with information needed to **communicate** and submit the annual performance appraisal for the rating period ending September 30, 2002, by **October 31, 2002**
- reminds employees and supervisors that an employee must serve under elements and standards in the current position for 90 calendar days or more before supervisors complete the employee's performance appraisal.

B Departure or Interim Ratings

When a position or supervisory change occurs, take action according to the following.

Supervisory Change: Each individual who supervised an employee for 90 calendar days or more during the appraisal period should **discuss** the performance with the employee, prepare feedback comments and forward them to the current rating official.

Position and Supervisory Change: When an employee who has occupied a position for at least 90 calendar days leaves that position, the supervisor/rating official should **discuss** and prepare feedback comments on the employee's performance and forward them to the new supervisor/rating official.

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Disposal Date	Distribution
	All FSA National Office and RMA Employees
March 1, 2003	(except Kansas City)

1 Overview (Continued)

B

Departure or Interim Ratings (Continued)

Position Change Without a Supervisory Change: When an employee changes position, but retains the same supervisor (such as, the employee was promoted or reassigned within the same organization), the supervisor should **discuss** and prepare written documentation of the employee's performance in the previous position. This information must be considered in the employee's rating of record in the previous position.

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Rating Requirements

To be rated, an employee must have:

- elements and standards established on AD-2000
- been under signed elements and standards for at least 90 calendar days.

Note: If the employee disagrees with elements and standards and refuses to sign them, the supervisor should note this in the employee's signature block on AD-2000.

D

Filing Grievances

Nonbargaining unit employees must grieve their performance appraisals under the Agency grievance procedure. Bargaining unit employees must use the negotiated grievance procedure.

E Contacts

If there are questions about rating employees, supervisors may contact HRD, Performance Management, Benefits, and Awards Branch (PMBAB) at 202-418-8973 or TTY 202-418-9116.

2 Supervisor Action

A Reviewing Performance

Supervisors shall review employee performance by:

- ensuring that the employee has served under elements and standards in his/her current position for **90 calender days** or more
- comparing the employee's performance of each element with the standards established on AD-2000
- if necessary, obtaining written documentation of the employee's performance under a previous position if:
 - the employee is on detail for 120 calendar days or more
 - a change in supervisor occurs and the employee works under a new supervisor for 90 calendar days or more
 - the employee changes positions and serves in the new position for 90 calendar days or more
 - the employee transfers outside FFAS.

Note: The former supervisor should provide a copy of the interim rating to the employee's new supervisor. See subparagraph 1 B.

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2 Supervisor Action (Continued)

B Conducting the Appraisal

Meeting

Supervisors shall:

• schedule a formal appraisal meeting with the employee several days in advance

Note: Allow uninterrupted time for meaningful discussions.

- **communicate** and encourage a 2-way dialogue with the employee to discuss:
 - any followup from the progress reviews
 - how well the performance objectives and standards were met
 - specific accomplishments since the mid-year review
 - areas that need improvement or problems
 - the employee's feelings, reactions, and feedback
 - the elements and standards for FY 2003
 - FY 2003 Individual Development Plan (IDP).

C Providing Additional Documentation

Under the 2-level appraisal system, provide written comments **if** an employee receives a "Results Not Achieved" performance rating.

Note: The documentation shall be attached to AD-2000 and must be signed by the rating official and the reviewing official before employee signs.

3 Completing AD-2000

A Supervisor and Employee Action

Supervisors and employees shall ensure that:

- at least 2 performance reviews are held and documented
- the employee's performance rating is completed by evaluating and documenting the employee's actual accomplishments, then determining a summary level of "Results Achieved" or "Results Not Achieved"
- supervisors should check appropriate box on AD-2000, Part III
- AD-2000 contains required signatures and dates in blocks 9 and 10.

A Distributing AD-2000

Supervisors shall distribute completed performance appraisals according to this table.

Step	Action
1	Forward the original, completed copies of AD-2000 to HRD, PMBAB STOP 0595 by October 31, 2002.
2	Provide the employee with a copy of AD-2000.
3	Retain a copy of AD-2000 for the supervisor's file.